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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

ACDA-05 AID-05 /086 W
---------- 013305
R 151216Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1138
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI
DIA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0652

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, FR, CD
SUBJ: FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: NDJAMENA 0602

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DALLIER MARCH 12 GAVE CHARGE BRIEF RUN-DOWN ON SPECIFICS AND ATMOSPHERICS OF RECENTLY CONCLUDED FRANCO/CHADIAN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

2. BASIC ELEMENTS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT INCLUDE ONE SQUADRON (15 TO 18) OF FERRET ARMORED CARS, FIFTEEN VLRA (VEHICLE LEGER ARME RECONNAISSANCE) TO BE FURNISHED AT A LATER DATE, FOUR PROPELLER DRIVEN AD4 SKYRAIDER FIGHTERS (WW II VINTAGE, SUCH AS PREVIOUSLY STATIONED CHAD), TWO DC-4 FIRST OF WHICH TO ARRIVE IN EIGHT DAYS BUT TWO NORD-ATLAS TO BE LOANED UNTIL DC-4S OPERATIONAL, AND FOUR PUMA-TYPE SA-330 HELICOPTERS. FRANCE WILL SUPPLY AAPROXIMATELY 100 MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR CREWS, TRAINING, AND MAINTENANCE FOR AIRCRAFT AND IN ADDITION WILL IN-CREASE TOTAL NUMBER MILITARY ADVISERS IN CHAD FROM 260 NOW TO
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310. BASIC CONDITION UNDER WHICH ASSISTANCE IS SUPPLIED IS THAT

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NO FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL TAKE PART IN ANY MILITARY ACTION AGAINST REBELS. "IF THERE IS FIGHTING IN FAYA," SAID AMBASSADOR DALLIER, "FRENCH PILOTS WILL NOT FLY THERE."

3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL INCLUDE ABOUT 1.5 BILLION CFA FOR DEVELOPMENT PLUS ANOTHER 3 TO 4 BILLION FOR BUDGETARY SUPPORT, FORGIVENESS OF INTEREST PAYMENTS ON DEBTS, ETC. (COMMENT: THESE FIGURES SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN ESTIMATES QUOTED FRENCH PRESS.)

4. MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. APPRAENTLY GOC EXPROPRIATION ALL FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROPERTY SAVE FOR EMBASSY, CHANCERY AND CONGEN RESIDENCE MAY BE SOFTENED SOMEWHAT AS AMB DALLIER HAS POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH EMBASSY PURCHASED SUBSTANTIAL HOUSING FROM LEGITIMATE OWNERS AND DID NOT RECEIVE IT FROM GOC. FRENCH CONTINUE INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING MEDICAL FACILITIES WHICH WOULD SERVE FRENCH MILITARY AND CIVIL POPULATION AS WELL AS NUMBER FOREIGNERS, BUT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN AND UNDLUBTEDLY WILL BE LENGTHY.

5. NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMB, WERE STICKY, WITH PARTICULAR STOBBORNNESS BEING MET AT GOC DIRECTOR LEVEL (FINANCE AND EDUCATION PARTICULARLY SPECIFIED) WHERE FRENCH NEGOTIATORS FOUND YOUNG NEWLY APPOINTED CHADIANS TO BE PROUD, LACKING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, AND EXTREMELY NATIONALISTIC. FRENCH AMB CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT IN HIS VIEW THERE NO "LEFTIST" TINGE TO GOC, HOWEVER,
AND THAT BASIC
ORIENTATION EVEN OF YOUNG DIRECTORS REMAINS WESTERN. MANY OFTHE PROBLEMS WHICH AROSE AT WORKING LEVELS WERE RESOLVED AT MINISTERIAL OR EVEN PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL.

6. FINALLY, AMB DALLIER THOUGHT THAT FRENCH PRESS, PARTICULARLY FIGARO AND LE MONDE, HAD TAKEN MORE PESSIMISTIC TONE THAN WARRANTED. FIGARO HE DISMISSED AS BEING (ON CHADXJL MNITH-# PIECE OF ITS REPORTED DESJARDINS (WHO INSTRUMENTAL IN PUB-LICIZING CLAUSTRE AFFAIR) AND LE MONDE AS BEING GENERALLY NEGA-TIVE. HE DENIED SPECIFICALLY LE MONDE GUPORT THAT NO COOPERANTS HAD MET WITH VISITING FRENCH OFFICIALS BUT DID NOT COMMENT ON LE MONDE ALLEGATION THAT PRINCIPLE PURPOSE FRENCH ASSISTANCE
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IS TO GIVE CHADIANS THIRD CHOICE AFTER SOVIETS AND US.DWYER

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NDJAME00652
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760097-0346
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760360/aaaacayt.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NDJAMENA 602
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO CHAD
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, FR, CD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006